

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re divisional PATENT APPLICATION  
filed on March 5, 2002, based on the parent  
allowed application 09/353,445 as follows:

Application of: Kohei ODA, et al.

Appl. No. Not Assigned

Confirmation No.

Filed: March 5, 2002

Art Unit: 1651

Examiner: Herbert J. LILLING

Atty. Docket No. 32290-178953

For: A METHOD FOR  
DECOMPOSING POLYESTERS  
CONTAINING AROMATIC  
MOIETIES, A DENIER  
REDUCTION METHOD OF  
FIBER, AND  
MICROORGANISMS HAVING  
ACTIVITY OF DECOMPOSING  
THE POLYESTER

Customer No.



26694

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

**Preliminary Amendment**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT is filed in conjunction with papers to perfect filing of a divisional application from the parent application 09/353,455[now allowed]. Applicants hereby claim priority to Application No. 10-319,251 filed in Japan on November 10, 1998. The claim for priority was perfected in the now allowed parent application U.S. Serial No. 09/353,445.

Please amend the application as follows:

**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

This application is a divisional application of Serial No. 09/353,455 filed July 14, 1999 (now allowed) which is relied upon and incorporated by reference herein.

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please cancel Claims 1-17 and Claims 21-23.

09/353,445

Applicant(s) Kohei ODA, et al.  
Appl. No. Divisional Application of 09/353,445

**REMARKS**

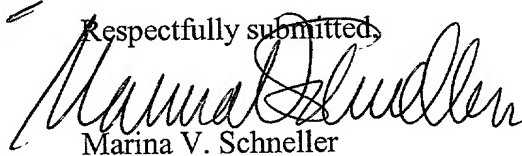
An early examination is respectfully solicited.

Two divisional applications are filed concurrently herewith. The payment of the issue fee in Serial Number 09/353,445, the parent application was submitted on March 1, 2002.

These divisional applications are based on the restriction requirement of September 12, 2000 in the parent application.

Dated: March 5, 2002

Respectfully submitted,



Marina V. Schneller

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VENABLE

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